



## Press Release

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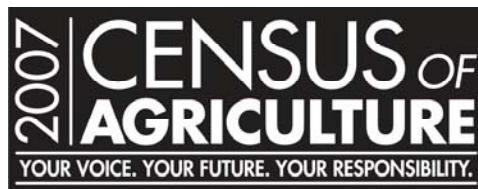
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### **Idaho March Red Meat Production Up 24 Percent from Last Year**

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for March 2008 totaled 19.2 million pounds, up 24 percent from March of last year, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. March production was up 5 percent from February 2008 production. Accumulated red meat production for the January-March 2008 period totaled 53.7 million pounds, up 97 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.09 billion pounds in March, up 2 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in March 2007. Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.73 million head, down 2 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds. Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 17 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,800 head, up slightly from March 2007. The average live weight was down 48 pounds from last year, at 273 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.96 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.66 million head, up 5 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 271 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 16.0 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,900 head, 17 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago. January to March 2008 commercial red meat production was 12.5 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 12 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.



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